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TOP SECRET

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25X1

25X1

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: November NID/DIN/NIB/WSHR Review Results

1. I reviewed 99 articles (35 NID, 25 NIB, 35 DIN, 4 WSHR) published in November.

2. Country Distribution. These articles addressed the following countries:

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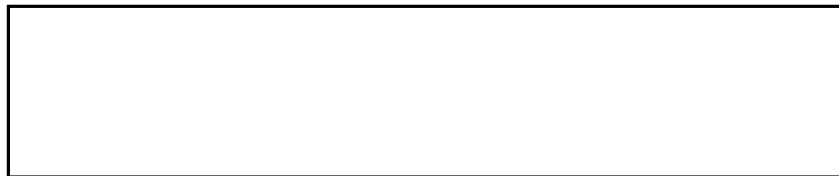
3. Substantive Issues. The principal substantive issues in November concerned:

a. Predictions ^{concerning} and reactions to President Ford's trip to Japan and South Korea. A

b. Tanaka's troubles at home.

c. Appointment of a new Chinese foreign minister.

4.



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5. Usefulness of the Reporting.

4% major value
40% worth reporting
31% marginal
25% filler

These subjective assessments were made based on an assumed national readership only at the very highest level of the government.

Once again, DIN's rated lowest on usefulness. Fully 70% were in the "marginal" or "filler" categories. It was apparent this month as well as last that greater care in terms of choice of words and research goes into the NID/NIB than into the DIN. NIB and NID articles are often essentially identical (14 out of 35 NID items).

25X1

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TOP SECRET

6. Some bad examples.

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Comment</u>
✓ Below threshold of interest.	PRC: Navy changes hull numbers (DIN602)	
Disagrees with previous publications	PRC: There is increased emphasis on improving Tibetan Land communications (DIN615)	First, the item is really a trivial report about road paving. But more importantly, the DIN refers to "tenuous" evidence of a pipeline. An earlier, coordinated NID item said the pipeline is being built and construction has been under-way for a year. 25X1
✓ Title not supported by the article		
Essentially a rehash		
Incomplete analysis	North Korea: MI-4 helicopter inventory increased (26 NOV NIB)	The implications of this inventory increase, if any, are not addressed at all. DIN 730 on the same subject leaves one wondering whether these are new helicopters or whether our old count was just too low.
Non-sequitur	PRC: The high level political investigation of military leaders may be entering its final phase (DIN610)	There is no previous reporting on this "investigation." The article is also strongly based on inference from the evidence presented.
Dubious source	Korea: Additional tunnels may be under construction in the DMZ (DIN696)	The source is a "low-level defector" and the article itself suggests it is questionable that the source knows what he's talking about.
Apparent overstatement	PRC: Peking is experiencing difficulty in restoring order and political stability (DIN 532)	This article suggests that there are indications of "...a serious lack of national and local control..." in China.

7. A few words on sources. As noted on the attached statistical table, Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP83M00171R000300270038-5 its also

TOP SECRET

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25X1

worth noting that the source could not be discerned for over 20% of my items.

8. Finally, one correction was published in the NID and NIB this month after State protested an error of fact.

25X1

Major, USA

Attachment

IC/PRD/BTHarris:fn

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

- 2 -
- 3 -
- 4 -
- 5 -
- 6 -
- 7 -
- 8 -
- 9 -
- 10 -
- 11 - Area Br. Subject
- 12 - PRD Chrono
- 13 - BTH Chrono

25X1

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